

# STATE OF ILLINOIS



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and, throughout the country's history, residents have stepped up to meet our challenges by volunteering in their communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, since its creation in 1994, the AmeriCorps national service program has proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in meeting a wide range of community needs and to promote the ethic of service and volunteering; and,

**WHEREAS**, each year AmeriCorps programs, including AmeriCorps\*State and National, AmeriCorps\*VISTA and AmeriCorps\*NCCC, provide opportunities for nearly 75,000 residents across the nation, including more than 2,300 in Illinois, to give back in an intensive way to our communities, our state, and our country; and,

**WHEREAS**, more than 1,000,000 people across the nation, including more than 45,000 from Illinois, have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done" since 1994; and,

**WHEREAS**, those Illinois AmeriCorps Members have served more than 64 million hours; which equates to over \$1.7 billion in impact for Illinois, by helping improve the lives of our state's most vulnerable residents, strengthening our educational system, protecting our environment, and contributing to our public safety; and,

**WHEREAS**, last year AmeriCorps Members in Illinois recruited over 18,000 volunteers, served over 366,000 Illinoisans, provided more than 2.1 million hours of service valued at over \$59 million, and helped to leverage more than \$42 million in cash and in-kind resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, residents of Illinois have earned more than \$157 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to help pay for college or pay back student loans since 1994; and,

**WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, public servants, and nonprofit leaders in disproportionately high levels; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service and the federal Corporation for National and Community Service play a key role in determining where AmeriCorps resources should be directed to meet state and local needs;

**THEREFORE**, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 8-14, 2020 as **AmeriCorps Week** in Illinois and urge residents to thank AmeriCorps Members and alumni for their service and to find ways to give back to their communities at [www.Serve.Illinois.gov](http://www.Serve.Illinois.gov).

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,*

*this \_\_\_\_\_ NINTH \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ MARCH \_\_\_\_\_, in*

*the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and*

*\_\_\_\_\_ TWENTY \_\_\_\_\_, and of the State of Illinois,*

*two hundred and \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND \_\_\_\_\_.*



*Deese White*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR